

From: Kirk S. Kuzma
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/10/01 3:06pm
Subject: Microsoft has been done wrong by the DOJ, and it is time to end it.

My simple view on the action brought against Microsoft is sheer amazement at the lack of understanding for the software industry, and the difficulty of creating software for thousands of different configurations of personal computers.

For example, PC manufacturers often use substandard components of several different varieties when creating PC for large customers. When this occurs, Microsoft has to include device drivers for every one of these devices. Try setting your monitor to a specific brand, you will be presented with several thousand choices from several hundred manufacturers. Add to the mix all the peripherals and you will see how many resources have been devoted to this single aspect of windows.

It makes common sense to me for Microsoft to be able to control the base operating system as shipped initially to the customer. When manufacturers bundle helpful tutorials, additional software, or other Value Added Extras, they are invariably installed incorrectly, poorly documented, are of poor quality, and in most cases, affect the stability of the Operating System.

As the feature set of Windows has increased over the years, the complexity of these features has been skillfully separated into components which can be used by any number of applications that desire to use them. Like the Web Browser component. From the first day, this component was available to me for use in my Visual Basic applications. Netscape on the contrary was nearly unusable from other applications, and their philosophy was quite draconian -- You must be contained within their browser if you wished to utilize the services that exposed.

I have written several emails in the past, and it is clear that the whole case was driven not by the factual realities of software development, but the hidden agendas on the lobbyists who represented the companies that had painted themselves into a corner by creating huge slipshod applications that could no longer adapt to the marketplace. The truth is the same today -- Poorly written code stays around for a lot longer than people realize, and in my experience, most companies are loaded with substandard systems.

I'm truly convinced that the action and finding against Microsoft precipitated the collapse of the market, as it said to the entire IT industry, don't try succeed or the government will intervene. The worse part was that the technical community was kept quite distant from the case, and I would challenge the so called court experts to explain the technologies exploited by Microsoft to achieve browser superiority. I doubt if they could. In fact, the government was never able to explain it.

In the Software Development world, personalities take second place to quality, yet we reward the the most skilled political lobbyist by listening to their dishonest tales of conspiracy when they fail in their own business.

Microsoft has done more good for standards than any other company in the world -- and the government finds this bad? What is the message you are trying to get across?

If you really want to do some good, go after all the Spammers and disseminators of Viruses and Trojan Software and make the penalties severe.

Sincerely

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